GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1103
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2001
SMUGGLING OF DRUGS
P.D. ELANGOVAN

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the drug peddlers are now using Indian route for smuggling of narcotics and banned drugs particularly after the start of war in Afghanistan;

(b) if so, the details of the seizures made after September 11, 2001 in India; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check and curb drug trafficking through India?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN)

(a) The proximity to the International border and good air-linkage with other countries make India vulnerable to drug trafficking, which is a clandestine activity. Seizure of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in India, as reported by various drug law enforcement agencies, do not indicate an overall increasing trend after the start of war in Afghanistan.

(b) Details of narcotic drugs seized in India, as reported by various drug law enforcement agencies, during the month of September and October, 2001 are Opium-389 kgs, Heroin-147 kgs, Hashish 2456 kgs, Ganja-2770 Kgs and Methaqualone-40 kgs.

(c) Government of India has already taken a number of significant steps to prevent and put effective check on drug trafficking. These include instructions to all drug enforcement agencies to maintain utmost vigil and step up enforcement efforts, training to officers, liberal reward scheme for informers, fencing of Indo-Pak border provided with flood lighting, vesting of powers in BSF and Coast Guards under the Customs Act, quarterly coordination meetings by NCB, holding ofquarterly cross-border meetings of Indian and Pakistani anti-narcotics agencies as a part of the border meetings of BSF and Pak Rangers, holding of operationallevel meetings with Myanmar officials and providing two sniffer dogs and also training dog handlers of Myanmar.